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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, TU
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS ON EC-TURKEY RELATIONS DURING EMILE NOEL VISIT, MARCH 7-8, 1977

1. SUMMARY: EMILE NOEL, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF EC COMMISSION, VISITED TURKEY ON MARCH 7-8 AT INVITATION OF NECMETTIN ERBAKAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HEAD OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY. TURKISH PRESS HEADLINED VISIT AS FURTHER EXAMPLE OF DETERIORATING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND HIS MAIN COALITION PARTNER AS WELL AS AN EXAMPLE OF ERBAKAN'S TOUGH STANCE VIS-A-VIS THE COMMON MARKET. MINISTRY OF FORIEGN AFFAIRS SOURCE CONFIRMED FACT THAT ERBAKAN AND NOT MFA HAD ISSUED INVITATION TO NOEL BUT NEVERTHELESS FELT VISIT WAS WORTHWHILE. MFA SOURCE SAID THAT WHILE MUCH OF ERBAKAN PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON VISIT HAD BEEN PHRASED IN CONTEXT OF PARTISAN DOMESTIC POLITICS, HE FELT THAT
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MEETINGS THEMSELVES HAD GONE WELL AND THAT CONDUCT OF BOTH ERBAKAN AND NOEL HAD NOT HARMED, BUT IF ANYTHING HAD STRENGTHENED TURKEY-EC RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING VISIT NOEL HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN AND NSP MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE (OZAL) AND OF ENDUSTRY (DOGRU) AS WELL AS WITH THE MINISTER

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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CAGLAYANGIL). SARACOGLU, TURKEY'S AMBASSADOR TO THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER MFA REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS.

3. IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BEFORE THE DISCUSSIONS BEGAN, ERBAKAN OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON THE TURKEY-EC RELATIONSHIP. HE INSISTED THAT (A) LIBERALIZATION OF THE TURKISH IMPORT REGIME UNDER THE ANNEX PROTOCOL "PREVENTS THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF TURKEY", (B) TURKEY IS COMMITTED TO ALLOCATING A LARGE AND GROWING MARKET SHARE TO THE EC WHILE COMMUNITY WILL NOT RECIPROCATE AND DOES NOT HONOR HER OBLIGATIONS TO TURKEY; AND (C) REQUIREMENT THAT TURKEY OBTAIN PERMISSION OF EC BEFORE GOT CAN RESTRICT IMPORTS OR SET UP SPECIAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, WHILE EC GRANTS CONCESSIONS TO THIRD COUNTRIES OR SETS UP RESTRICTIVE TRADE BARRIERS WITHOUT CONSULTING TURKEY, IS DISCRIMINATORY. SINCE TURKISH INDUSTRIALIZATION, AGRICULTURE AND WORKERS RIGHTS ARE NOT ADEQUATELY PROTECTED UNDER PRESENT TURKEY-EC FRAMEWORK, TURKEY WOULD NEED TO REARRANGE HER RELATIONS WITH THE EC.

4. IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT, NOEL SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TURKEY CONSTITUTED AN IMPORTANT GOAL OF THE COMMUNITY. HE FELT THAT TURKISH INDUSTRIALIZATION WOULD BE ACCELERATED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE TURKEY-EC AGREEMENTS (1963 BASIC AGREEMENT AND 1970 ANNEX PROTOCOL) WHICH GRADUALLY ARE OPENING THE TURKISH ECONOMY TO COMPETITION. NOEL WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT HE "COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
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THE EC AND TURKEY REST ON AN UNJUST AND UNEQUAL ARRANGEMENT." THE EC-TURKEY AGREEMENTS WERE BINDING ON BOTH PARTIES AND WERE NOT RENEGOTIABLE. THE COMMUNITY, HOWEVER, WAS DETERMINED TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS TO TURKEY AND WAS WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE ON THE TIMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TURKISH OBLIGATIONS TO THE EC-NINE.

5. EMBOFF DISCUSSED NOEL VISIT WITH ULUC OZULKER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EC AFFAIRS, MFA, WHO SAT IN ON MANY OF THE MEETINGS. OZULKER, WHO WAS QUITE CRITICAL OF THE DISRUPTIVE IMPACT OF ERBAKAN'S VISIONARY ECONOMIC PROGRAMS ON THE DOMESTIC TURKISH ECONOMY, NEVERTHELESS, FELT THE ERBAKAN-NOEL MEETINGS HAD BEEN USEFUL. OZULKER SAID HE SENSED THAT MUCH OF ERBAKAN'S CRITICISM OF THE EC WAS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION TO IMPROVE NSP CHANCES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH NOEL ON THE OTHER HAND, WHILE NOT HESITANT IN CRITICIZING COMMUNITY LACK OF RESPONSIVE-

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NESS TO TURKEY'S PLIGHT, ERBAKAN DID NOT PLAY HIS
NORMAL ROLE OF A PAN-ISLAMIST AND APPEARED TO UNDER-
STAND THE VALUE OF A GROWING EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIP
TO TURKEY'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. OZULKER SAID THAT,
BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS, HE FELT THAT THE ACCEPTED
ASSESSMENT OF ERBAKAN AS ANTI-EUROPEAN HAD BEEN CON-
SIDERABLY EXAGGERATED. OZULKER SPECULATED THAT
ERBAKAN MAY BE SOMEWHAT DISILLUSIONED IN HIS HOPE
OF OBTAINING GENEROUS ARAB CREDITS FOR TURKEY AND MORE
APPRECIATIVE OF NEED TO KEEP OPEN CREDIT LINES WITH
COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBER COUNTRIES.

6. OZULKER SAID THAT HOUR LONG DISCUSSION BETWEEN
NOEL AND FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AT END OF VISIT HAD BEEN
FRIENDLY, WIDE-RANGING AND GENERAL.
NOEL DID NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO COMPLAIN TO CAGLAYANGIL
THAT ERBAKAN HAD EXERCISED NEGATIVE INFLUENCE
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ON TURKEY-EC RELATIONS. FONMIN, ON OTHER
HAND, DID NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO SOFTEN ERBAKAN'S
POSITION OR TRY TO EXPLAIN IT AWAY.
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